



County of Los Angeles CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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March 23, 2007

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

Pursuit of County Position

Adult Protective Services (APS) Program. In upcoming budget subcommittee hearings, the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) and the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) will recommend a \$20 million State General Fund augmentation to the APS Program. APS is a State-mandated program which provides investigation, crisis intervention and short-term case management services on behalf of abused and neglected elder and dependent adults. Funding for this program has been at the same level for the past six years. Therefore, consistent with Board-approved policy to support increased funding for the APS Program, **our Sacramento advocates will support the augmentation in the budget hearing process.** In addition, my staff will work with Community and Senior Services staff on an outreach campaign to encourage our community partners to support CWDA and CSAC's funding recommendation.

AB 190 (Bass), as introduced on January 25, 2007, would establish a new child welfare budget methodology to implement the caseload relief recommendations of the SB 2030 Child Welfare Workload Study. SB 2030, which was enacted in 1998, directed the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to commission a study of workload standards in child welfare. The study recommended both minimal and optimal caseload budgeting standards for the child welfare program. The study findings revealed that

California's workload was roughly double the recommended minimum standards. AB 190 would require the State to budget the child welfare program to meet the following optimal caseload standards recommended in the study:

Screening, hotline and intake:	one worker per 68.70 children
Emergency response:	one worker per 9.88 children
Family maintenance:	one worker per 10.15 children
Family reunification:	one worker per 11.94 children
Permanency planning:	one worker per 16.42 children

The budgeting standard would be implemented incrementally over a five-year period beginning in FY 2007-08 with full implementation by FY 2011-12.

AB 190 would also require counties to develop a plan, in consultation with parents of children receiving child welfare services, consumers, child advocacy organizations and social worker organizations, for the use of additional funds to provide social workers with additional time or support to enhance casework and outcomes for children and families.

Current child welfare caseloads are based on standards that were devised over 20 years ago. High caseloads make it difficult for child welfare social workers to meet the current statutory requirements and mandates. Workload reductions would enhance the ability of social workers to provide vital services to children and families in our child welfare system and continue the commitment to the outcomes of safety, permanence and well-being. The Department of Children and Family Services recommends that the County support AB 190, and we concur. Consistent with existing Board policy to support proposals to ensure full funding for the Child Welfare Services program, including increased funding to cover all mandated services pursuant to the SB 2030 Workload Study and the fully loaded costs of a social worker, **our Sacramento advocates will support AB 190.**

AB 190 is a re-introduction of **County-supported AB 2193 (Bass)** which failed passage in the Senate in 2006 and was co-sponsored by the County Welfare Directors Association, the California State Association of Counties, the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, the National Association of Social Workers, and the Services Employees International Union.

Currently, there is no registered opposition to AB 190. The bill is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Human Services Committee on March 27, 2007.

AB 340 (Hancock), as amended on March 22, 2007, would establish the Unified Resource Families Assessment Pilot Project in five volunteer counties selected by the

California Department of Social Services (CDSS). The pilot project would merge multiple, duplicative processes for licensing and approving relatives, foster families and adoptive parents who care for abused and neglected children.

Under existing law, foster care givers are segmented into three groups; relatives, foster family providers, and adoptive homes. While all givers must meet the same health and safety standards, the process for each can vary. For example, all relatives and foster parents must undergo a second, subsequent criminal background check to become adoptive parents. This is despite the fact that many foster parents choose to adopt the same foster children they have cared for, often for many years. In addition, assessment, training, licensing approval and renewal requirements differ for each foster care giver.

AB 340 would require the CDSS, in consultation with county welfare agencies, foster parent associations and other community stakeholders, to develop and implement a pilot program to establish a unified, child-centered resource family approval process to replace the current multiple process for licensing foster homes, approving relative and non-relative extended family members as foster care providers and approving adoptive families. The pilot project would improve safety, permanence and well-being of children by allowing families to become licensed or approved as foster parents and also being approved as adoptive parents through one single, unified process rather than the multiple steps that are currently required. This seamless process would also expedite a plan for permanency, minimize the need for placement changes if reunification is not possible and will keep the best interests of the foster child at the forefront during the placement and decision making process.

The Department of Children and Family Services recommends that the County support AB 340 because it would help recruit qualified foster and adoptive parents, ensure that children are safe and well cared for, and promote permanency, and we concur. Consistent with existing Board policy to support proposals to simplify foster care program eligibility requirements and enhance permanency for children by streamlining and consolidating the separate studies and criminal clearances to caregivers for licensure, approval, and adoption, **our Sacramento advocates will support AB 340.**

AB 340 is a reintroduction on **County-supported AB 2161 (Hancock)** which was introduced in 2006. AB 2161 was amended on August 28, 2006 to delete the provisions to establish the Unified Resource Families Assessment Pilot Project. AB 2161 was co-sponsored by the County Welfare Directors Association and supported by the California State Association of Counties.

Currently, there is no registered opposition to AB 340. The bill is scheduled for hearing in the Assembly Human Services Committee on March 27, 2007.

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Master Bill List

A roster containing the status of all bills with a County advocacy position is attached.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK
MAL:VE:EW:hg

Attachment

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist
Local 660
Coalition of County Unions
California Contract Cities Association
Independent Cities Association
League of California Cities
City Managers Associations
Buddy Program Participants

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
STATUS OF BILLS OF INTEREST TO THE COUNTY
2007-08 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

These are bills we have pursued in Sacramento pursuant to Board actions or as reported in bill policy memoranda.

<u>BILL</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
AB 81	Torrice	Oppose Unless Amended to delete language that increases the safe surrender time frame from 72 hours to 30 days (State Update: 3/6/07)	Would: 1) raise the age at which a minor child can be surrendered from 72 hours old or younger, to 30 days; 2) allow cities to designate safe surrender sites; 3) designate fire stations with a paramedic or emergency medical technician on duty 24 hours per day as safe surrender sites; 4) specify that persons at a safe surrender site have no liability prior to taking physical custody of a child; 5) appropriate \$5 million to the California Department of Social Services to conduct a statewide awareness campaign to publicize the safe surrender program and establish a toll-free telephone number to provide information regarding safe surrender sites; and 6) allocate \$1 million in competitive grants to county social services agencies that conduct safe surrender outreach activities.	Assembly Judiciary
AB 119	Price	Support (State Update: 3/1/07)	Would require the State to pay for expenses incurred on or after January 1, 2007, for elections proclaimed by the Governor to fill a vacancy in the office of State Senator or member of the Assembly or to fill a vacancy in the office of the United States Senate or Representative in Congress. If an election proclaimed by the Governor is consolidated with a local election, the State would pay only the additional expenses directly related to the election proclaimed by the Governor. Urgency measure.	Assembly Elections and Redistricting
AB 166	Bass	Oppose (State Update: 3/21/07)	Would add provisions to the Labor Code that would expand the presumption of job-related injury for public safety employees to include contracting methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) skin infections.	Assembly Insurance
AB 223	Runner	County-sponsored	Would allow those serving in the military, who are called to active duty in the United States on short notice, to be able to cast an absentee/provisional/or faxed ballot allowing those voters to be made a part of the official canvass.	Assembly Elections and Redistricting
AB 596	Dymally	Oppose (State Update: 3/21/07)	Would amend the provisions of the 1937 County Retirement Law to classify physicians working in a county jail or county mental health facility, in Alameda or Los Angeles Counties, as safety members without the need for county board of supervisors' action.	Assembly Public Employees, Retirement and Social Security

<u>BILL</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
AB 644	Dymally	Oppose (State Update: 3/21/07)	Would amend the Labor Code to require that physicians performing utilization review of the medical treatment on a workers' compensation case have an "intimate knowledge" of the issues presented for review. Further, it would require the reviewing physician to look at the treatment requested by the treating physician and not the specialty of practice.	Assembly Insurance
AB 713	Maze, Bass	County-sponsored	Would provide enhanced services and financial support to assist youth between the ages of 18 and 21 years to successfully emancipate from foster care. This is a two-year bill.	Assembly Desk
AB 714	Maze, Bass	County-sponsored	Would allow disclosure of birth family records for previously adopted children who return to foster care.	Assembly Judiciary
AB 1062	Ma	County-sponsored	Would enhance the CalWORKs Homeless and Housing Assistance Program by creating a time-limited rental subsidy for certain qualified CalWORKs families.	Assembly Desk
AB 1073	Nava	Oppose (State Update: 3/21/07)	Would amend the Labor Code to expand the number of chiropractic, occupational therapy and physical therapy treatment sessions available to workers for industrial injuries. It would also limit the reviews of treatment utilization to physicians licensed in California.	Assembly Insurance
AB 1391	Brownley	County-sponsored	Would: 1) amend the Water Code to include a requirement that the local public health officer be immediately notified in the event of a sewage spill; 2) permit civil fines to be imposed on persons who do not immediately notify the local public health officer when a sewage spill occurs; and 3) require that at least one of the Water Board's seven membership categories include someone with a public health background.	Assembly Desk
SB 119	Cedillo	Support (State Update: 2/8/07)	Would increase the scope of benefits and reimbursement rates for Drug Medi-Cal to provide access to an appropriate continuum of care for youths from 12 to 20 years of age suffering from substance abuse disorders.	Senate Appropriations
SB 134	Cedillo	County-sponsored	Would lift the retirement cap for those public safety employees of the Sheriff's Department hired prior to April 1997.	Senate Public Employment and Retirement

<u>BILL</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
SB 156	Simitian	Support and Amend as indicated in the summary (Board Action: 3/6/07)	Would enact the California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2008 and would place it on the 2008 statewide primary ballot. If approved by the voters, it would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$4 billion for library construction and renovation. The County is requesting that the bill be amended to: 1) include a deadline for awarding bond funds; 2) develop a streamlined and shorter application process; 3) consider per capita or geographical distribution as a factor in determining awards; 4) allow agencies up to one year to conduct an election if required to obtain matching funds through a local bond measure; and 5) require recipients to take immediate responsibility for project construction and demonstrate that funds are available to operate new facility.	Senate Education
SB 297	Romero	County-sponsored	Would authorize counties to impose a local tax of not more than five percent on the sale of alcoholic beverages in order to continue to provide essential public services, including emergency and trauma care.	Senate Governmental Organization
SB 352	Padilla	Oppose (State Update: 3/21/07)	Would amend the Labor Code to eliminate current restrictions on chiropractic, occupational therapy and physical therapy visits by law enforcement employees recovering from work related injuries.	Senate Labor and Industrial Relations
SB 767	Ridley-Thomas	County-sponsored	Would provide protection from civil and criminal liability for any persons who administer opioid antagonists, in good faith, to someone who is believed to be experiencing a drug overdose, and it also would release licensed health care professionals from civil and criminal liability when, if acting with reasonable care, they prescribe, dispense, distribute, or administer an opioid antagonist.	Senate Judiciary
SB 856	Runner	County-sponsored	Would allow local government agencies to install customized street name signs that better portray the city/community.	Senate Transportation and Housing
SB 959	Aanestad	County-sponsored	Would authorize a board of supervisors to permit the Sheriff and the Chief Probation Officer to mandate an electronic monitoring sentence, while also keeping the voluntary provision in place.	Senate Public Safety